

From: taliesin@speakeasy.org@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/12/02 1:51pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

I submit that both the Courts and the Department of Justice have a fundamental conflict of interest with respect to the antitrust case against Microsoft. How can one possibly judge a company and mete out fair justice when one depends upon that same company to do one's daily work?

I further submit that in the interests of justice, Her Honor, her staff, and the DOJ team - at the very least - should immediately henceforth and until the conclusion of the case, cease and desist from using any Microsoft products for any reason in any way related to the case. This includes operating systems, applications, servers, even mice and keyboards. This includes all aspects of the lives of those involved. Home computers, games and game consoles, et cetera, et cetera, ad infinitum nauseumque.

This will do two things. It will not only remove the specter of "what will I do if all this disappears" doubt from the minds of those involved, but prove to them personally just how pervasive the Microsoft monopoly is... and just how possible it is to break it, if only we have the will.

The proposed settlement, so far as I can tell, has no punishment for Microsoft, only prevention of further wrongdoing. I propose the following very simple step: A complete, total, ten-year ban on using Federal monies for the purchase of any Microsoft products, directly or indirectly. Current software would be allowed to remain, but as licenses expire or computers need upgrading, they would have to be replaced with non-Microsoft products. You cannot both break Microsoft's monopoly and pay them to maintain it. This would not only remove any Federal conflict of interest completely, but have the effect of forcing Microsoft to play fair with non-Microsoft systems or be forced from the industry as people make the changes necessary to make their own systems talk to non-Microsoft Federal systems.

There are many flaws with the proposed settlement, but I believe the addition of this one proviso, removing the conflict of interest from the case, will effectively cure all its remaining ills, and forever break the monopoly that today is Microsoft.

Glenn R. Stone
Linux Systems Engineer
working in Redmond, WA

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I know you're out there. I can feel you now. I know that you're afraid. You're afraid of us . You're afraid of change.

I don't know the future. I didn't come here to tell you how this is going to end. I came here to tell you how it's going to begin.

I'm going to hang up this phone, and then I'm going to show these people what you don't want them to see. I'm going to show them a world without you, a world without rules and controls, without borders or boundaries, a world where anything is possible.

Where we go from there is a choice I leave to you .

- Keanu Reeves as "Neo", "The Matrix" 1999